



File Code: 3410 (NA-03-15)

Date: July 7, 2003

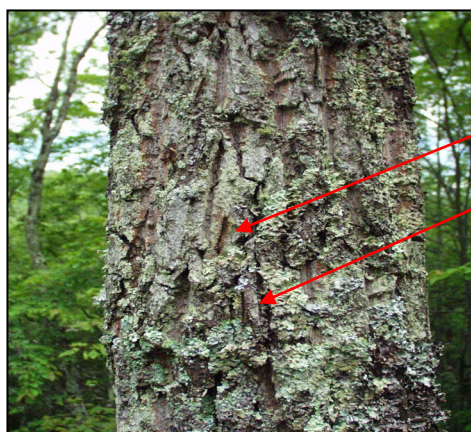
Subject: Brushy Mountain Area Survey

To: Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest

At the suggestion of District personnel and Jane Bard, Southern Zone Silviculturist, FHP personnel visited and documented gypsy moth defoliation along the Brushy Mountain Road off Forest Road 343. The defoliation appears to be widespread along the mountain and locally heavy. Many individual chestnut oaks were heavily defoliated and have since refoliated, giving them a lime green color. Numerous gypsy moth egg masses from last fall are still present on trees along the road and are easily seen. The gypsy moth fungus (*Entomophaga maimaiga*) (figure 1) and virus have been active in this area as evidenced by the high numbers of cadavers present on tree boles.



Anthrachnose injury was also observed on a variety of hardwoods (chestnut oak, white oak, maples, sycamore, etc.) in and around the District, but is not yet isolated. Anthracnose is caused by a native fungus, and wet, cool spring weather such as we have had this season promotes this disease. Severity varies with tree species and ranges from light to complete defoliation (figure 2), which reduces growth and predisposes affected trees to other stress factors. The scorched and blotched fungus-infected leaves give trees an unsightly and reddish-brown appearance that is visible from a distance (figure 3).



Fungus-killed
Gypsy Moth
Cadavers

Figure 1. Fungus-killed gypsy moth cadavers on a chestnut oak.



Figure 2. Scorched and curled oak leaves along Brushy Mountain Road due to anthracnose.

The hemlock woolly adelgid was also detected within several hemlock stands along State Route 23 south of Minnehaha Springs just north of The Dock (figure 4). The adelgid is an introduced



insect that feeds by sucking sap from the base of the needles. This feeding reduces growth and causes needles to drop prematurely, giving trees a gray color. The loss of new growth and needles caused by feeding greatly reduces tree health and can lead to tree death over time.

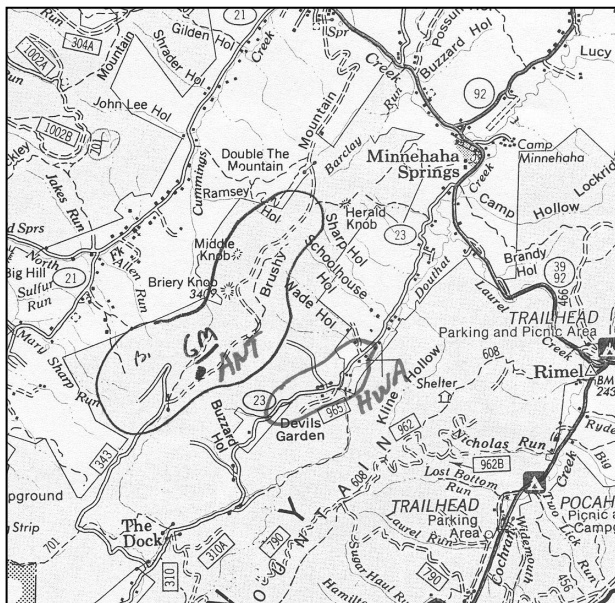


Figure 3. Brushy Mountain with visible reddish discoloration.



Figure 4. Hemlock woolly adelgid along State Route 23.

If the Brushy Mountain area is identified as an area with high resource values to the Monongahela National Forest, FHP can perform a more intensive and extensive insect and disease survey of current insect and disease populations.



Map 1. Survey sites near Brushy Mountain.
County: Pocahontas District: Marlinton

Surveyed areas are delineated on the adjacent map (GM = gypsy moth, ANT = anthracnose, and HWA = hemlock woolly adelgid). More information is given in the enclosed Pest Alerts and Forest Insect and Disease Leaflets. We ask all field personnel to continue monitoring for evidence of defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and take notes on the location, type of damage, and potential agents responsible by taking photographs or sending samples. Report any evidence to the Morgantown Field Office by email, phone, or online using the forest insect and disease link on the Monongahela intranet site. If you have any further questions on this or any other forest insect or disease issue, feel free to contact Rick Turcotte at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL

Field Representative
Forest Health Protection
Enclosures

Cc: District Ranger, Marlinton RD w/enclosures
RMT